

NASA LCDC Newsletter

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Director's Corner

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Dr. Seuss' Birthday 03/02
- ◆ Picture Day 03/02
- ◆ Winter Conferences 03/07-03/11
- ◆ Mardi Gras 03/08
- ◆ Chick-Fil-A Night 03/09 from 5-8 pm
- ◆ Johnny Appleseed Day 03/11
- ◆ Absolutely Incredible Kid Day 03/15
- ◆ St. Patrick's Day 03/17
- ◆ Square One Art Order Forms Due 03/22

February has zoomed by and March is here. We know that by now everyone is ready for some warmer weather, especially our children who would love to be outside playing daily and enjoying nature.

"Thank-you" parents for supporting our Valentine Day parties and our Multi-Cultural Diversity Luncheon. We all enjoyed the delicious foods and the wonderful fellowship.

A special thanks to the PTO for thinking of our staff every month with a special Birthday Treat. The breakfast treat for February was enjoyed by all.

In this newsletter, we want to pass on some information about what the LCDC is doing as we take a "measured approach" towards Accreditation. The local Tidewater Association for Early Childhood Education (TAECE) is a supporter of the Virginia Star Quality Initiative (VSQI) Program. The VSQI helps Childcare Centers define standards, create a framework for accountability and set the Center on a

Important Information

Winter Conferences will be held March 7-11.

The revised parent handbook is now online. It can be found at <http://larc-exchange.larc.nasa.gov/exchange08/childDevelopment/index.html>. Please read the handbook very carefully. Pay close attention to the section on Health Policies. Remember, children with temperatures of 101°F and higher should not attend the

quality improvement plan. We feel this program will be beneficial to the LCDC as we move towards accreditation. The documentation process for the VSQI program is very similar to that of the NAEYC program. We have attempted to explain these similarities below. Once the paper work is completed, our assigned mentor will help up prepare our classrooms before the rating take place. It will take 2-3 months after the documentation process, before the program is rated. We appreciate your support in this effort as we attempt to take this "measured approach" towards becoming NAEYC Accredited.

Please continue to check with your child's teacher about upcoming classroom events.

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time starts the second weekend in March. Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour Saturday night, March 12th.



center. Children may return once their temperature is 100°F or below for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

To make sure all classes are in ratio from the start of the day until the end of the day, our teachers are scheduled to come in at different times. Therefore, not all classrooms open at 6:30 am. The breakdown for opening classrooms are: Busy Bee and Pandas at 6:30; Teddy/Koala, Turtles and Pre-K at 7:00, Ducks at 7:30 and all other classrooms at 8:00.

VSQI Rating and NAEYC Accreditation

The Virginia Star Quality Initiative: A Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), is a rating system administered by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and Virginia's Office of Early Childhood Development. Early childhood centers that enroll in the program are rated in four areas:

1. *Education, Qualifications, and Training of Teaching Staff*
2. *Interactions between Teachers and Students*
3. *Teacher to Student Ratio and Class Sizes*
4. *Classrooms that Promote Cognitive Development*

In each of these four areas, early childhood programs are given one to five stars. Receiving one star indicates that the program is in good standing with the requirements set forth by the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Board of Education.

In addition to working on the Virginia Star Quality Initiative, we are also working towards obtaining accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC uses ten assessment standards to evaluate early childhood programs prior to awarding accreditation:

1. **Relationships:** The program promotes positive relationships among all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community and to foster each child's ability to contribute as a responsible community member.
2. **Curriculum:** The program implements a curriculum that is consistent with its goals for children and promotes learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive.
3. **Teaching:** The program uses developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriately and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child's learning and development in the context of the program's curriculum goals.
4. **Assessment of Child Progress:** The program is informed by ongoing systematic, formal, and informal assessment approaches to provide information on children's learning and development.
5. **Health:** The program promotes the nutrition and health of children and protects children and staff from illness and injury.

6. **Teachers:** The program employs and supports a teaching staff that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interest.
7. **Families:** The program establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with each child's family to foster children's development in all settings.
8. **Community Relationships:** The program establishes relationships with and uses the resources of the children's communities to support the achievement of program goals.
9. **Physical Environment:** The program has a safe and healthful environment that provides appropriate and well-maintained indoor and outdoor physical environments.
10. **Leadership and Management:** The program effectively implements policies, procedures, and systems that support stable staff and strong personnel, fiscal, and program management so all children, families, and staff have high-quality experiences.

A complete list of the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria may be found online at the following web address:

<http://www.naeyc.org/academy/primary/standardsintro>

It is important to indicate that there are many similarities between the Virginia Star Quality Initiative standards and the NAEYC standards. The Virginia Star Quality Initiative (VSQI) has four standards to operate by and NAEYC has ten. Looking at the four VSQI standards, you can see how eight of the ten NAEYC standards fit in.

VSQI Standard 1: Education, Qualifications, and Training encompass NAEYC Standard 6: Teachers.

VSQI Standard 2: Interactions encompasses NAEYC Standard 1: Relationships, NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum, NAEYC Standard 3: Teaching, and NAEYC Standard 4: Assessment of Child Progress

VSQI Standard 3: Structure encompasses staff to child ratio and group size.

VSQI Standard 4: Environment and Instruction encompasses NAEYC Standard 5: Health, NAEYC Standard 7: Families, NAEYC Standard 9: Physical Environment.

Parent Teacher Organization -PTO

PTO Officers

Bethany Schiller - President

Nicole Hintermeister - Vice President

Denise Lineberry - Secretary

Daniel Litton - Treasurer

PTO Meetings are every third Thursday of each month. Please support the activities provided for our children.

Upcoming PTO Events:

Picture Day, Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Spirit Night @ Chick-fil-a - 03/09/11 from 5:00-9:00 pm. Please come eat and play, a percentage of all food and beverage receipts will be donated to the LCDC.

The Square One Order Forms are due back by Tuesday, March 22nd. Please return forms to your child's teacher or the front desk. Make checks payable to NASA LCDC PTO.

Please continue to bring in your Farm Fresh receipts and Box Tops for Education. Last year, the LCDC redeemed points for a digital camera and supplies for the teacher resource room.

Staff News

Our staff continues to excel in their personal development both in and outside the classroom setting. We had nine teachers complete the Building Infant and Toddler Social Emotional Skills (BITSE) workshop. In the workshop, participants increased their awareness in the following areas: healthy social and emotional development in infants and toddlers; and how infants and toddlers experience, express, and control their emotions. Other topics discussed were temperament traits of infants and toddlers and the advantages of infant and toddler attachment to their caregivers. We are in the process of scheduling training for the entire staff in the future.

Four of our teachers are registered to attend the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education (VAECE) Conference on March 17-19. This is being made possible by the PTO who has been a strong supporter of this conference and our teachers every year. Thank you PTO!

All of our trainings and workshops can be used towards training hours and course credits.



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